



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Kentucky Field Office



News Release

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Date: March 31, 2011

KENTUCKY FARMERS WILL PLANT MORE CORN, SOYBEANS IN 2011

Planting intentions by Kentucky farmers show more corn, soybeans and wheat will be planted for the 2011 crop season according to the Kentucky Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Strong crop prices are encouraging farmers to plant more row crops. Burley tobacco acreage is expected to be down, and acreage harvested for hay is expected to be below the 2010 level. The Intentions Survey represents acreage farmers intend to plant and/or harvest as of March 1. Winter wheat was seeded in the fall of 2010.

Farmers in Kentucky intend to plant 1.40 million acres of corn, up 60,000 acres from 2010. If realized, this would be the largest acreage planted since 2007. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 92.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2011, up 5 percent from last year and 7 percent higher than in 2009. If realized, this will be the second highest planted acreage since 1944, behind only the 93.5 million acres planted in 2007.

Soybean acreage in Kentucky was expected to total 1.48 million acres, up 80,000 acres from the previous year and the largest acreage since 1984. U.S. soybean planted area for 2011 is estimated at 76.6 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. If realized, the planted area will be the third largest on record.

Burley tobacco growers in Kentucky intend to set 67,000 acres for harvest, down 5,000 acres from 2010. For the burley producing States, growers intend to set 94,750 acres, 3 percent below last year. If realized, this will be the lowest burley acreage on record surpassing the low record established in 2008 at 97,500 acres.

Producers intend to set 9,500 acres of dark-fired tobacco in Kentucky, up 700 acres from the previous year. Acreage set to dark-air tobacco was estimated at 4,200 acres, down 200 acres from 2010.

Winter wheat seeded by Kentucky farmers in the fall of 2010 totaled 540,000 acres, up 38 percent from the 390,000 acres planted in 2009. Seeded acreage for the Nation was 41.2 million acres, up 10 percent from 2010.

Farmers in the state intend to harvest 2.45 million acres of all hay, down 80,000 acres from 2010. The acreage of all hay harvested during a summer depends to a great measure on the moisture received during the growing season and temperatures experienced. With a drier summer farmers will cut more hay to feed their cattle.

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